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2004 Mid-Year Agricultural Survey *Press Release*

Agricultural Survey Is an Opportunity to Provide the Facts

(Athens, GA, April 21, 2004)--How many acres will be planted to crops in Georgia? What will spring planting conditions mean for Georgia agriculture? To gather reliable, objective information, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be surveying farmers for the June Agricultural Survey.

There is always speculation about each new crop season and agricultural producers are the main source for the facts. "If we speak up and answer the questions about the 2004 crop season, we can help reduce uncertainty in the agriculture marketplace," says Dave Abbe, State Statistician with the Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service.

The Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the survey and a representative will contact local producers between May 20 and June 14. Some respondents will be chosen from sampled areas of land identified on aerial photographs. This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2004.

The information gathered is widely used. Producers rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Industry analysts, extension agents, and farm organizations use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Abbe says. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data." NASS works with farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep U.S. agriculture informed.

All agricultural statistics, including the June 30 Acreage report, published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/. For more information, call 1-800-253-4419.

Just the *FACTS*
about today's
agricultural situation.

Respond to the USDA's Mid-Year
Agricultural Surveys, and let the
facts be known *now*.

